

REMARKS

Claim 8 is the only claim pending in the application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims and rewritten claim 8 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 8 now stands in allowable form.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-078141 (the JP '141). Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '141 in view of Coverdill (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,365). Since claims 1-7 and 9 have been canceled, these rejections are now moot.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and such is respectfully requested.

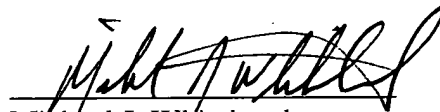
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/985,834

Attorney Docket No.: Q66938

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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